ACLU Sees Threats To Liberties in U.S.

NEW YORK, Aug. 27 (UPI)—The American Civil Liberties Union warned today of grave threats to individual liberties arising from the war in Vietnam. It pledged at the same time to fight wholesale military conscription.

In its 46th annual report, covering the 18-month period from July 1965 to January 1967, the ACLU said dissent on the war was being heard but there were disturbing indications of attacks on free speech and other First-Amendment rights.

"The gravest threats to civil liberties in 1965-66 were undoubtedly the pressures arising from the war in Vietnam," the report said.

The report cited an Army court-martial of a lieutenant who demonstrated against U.S. policy while out of uniform and off duty, the refusal of the Georgia Legislature to seat Negro Assemblyman Julian Bond because of his pacifist views, the revocation of the passports of historian Staughton Lynd and two others who visited Hanoi and the attempt to reclassify University of Michigan students who sat in at the Ann Arbor draft board.

The ACLU said "the climate of repression only faintly echoed the era of McCarthyism." It noted that "many legislators, newspapers, organizations and individuals spoke up in defense of free expression."

The report said "one of the most significant consequences of the struggle" in Vietnam was the refusal of numerous young men to be drafted because of conscientious objection to that particular war rather than to war in general.